THE

BLACK DWARF.

A London Weekly Publication.

EDITED BY T. J. WOOLER.

Satire's my weapon; but I'm too discreet,
To run a-muck and tilt at all I meet:
I only wear it in a land of Hectors,
Thieves, supercargoes, sharpers, and directors.

POPE.

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DEDICATION

TO MESSRS.

ABBOTT, BAILEY, HOLROYD, AND BEST,

THE FOUR JUDGES OF THE COURT OF KING'S BENCH,
In the Year 1821.

My Lords,

It is usual for writers to inscribe their productions to their friends, or to those from whom they expect benefits. I, on the contrary, prefer dedicating the effusions of my pen to those who are avowedly my enemies; and at whose hands I have received nothing but injury, and injustice. In the past half year, I have received from you the most flagrant wrong that power can inflict upon integrity; and, in the true Christian feeling of repaying injuries with benefits, I dedicate this volume to your perusal, as the best means of enabling you to repair an error, if your conduct towards me have arisen from such cause; or of repenting a vice, if any secret prejudice have biassed the scale, which it was your duty to have balanced with an even hand.

If you have sufficient courage to read these pages, I am satisfied you must arise from their perusal, convinced that their author ought not to have been subjected to the privations of imprisonment, for advocating those rights, which are essential to the happiness of mankind; or for condemning those abuses and corruptions, which, your Lordships are as well aware as other men, deface, most hideously, the system it has been your practice to pretend is the most excellent and perfect that the human imagination could conceive.

I shall not ask you to recant your expressed opinions; or to retrace the steps by which a legally

packed Jury, and witnesses who ought not to have been tolerated in a Court of Justice, placed me at your disposal;—for I am aware of the pride that must maintain its importance; and the necessity there exists for propping up a falling system by the sacrifice of every individual who ventures to point out its defects. But, after you have read through this volume, I challenge you to reply to its contents, at the bar of the Eternal Justice, where we shall meet upon equal terms; and where no refusal of a Writ of Error can nip enquiry in the bud;—where no pretended lack of precedent for right, will be made use of for the establishment of a precedent to commit injustice:—where the Judge will not imagine excuses for the officers of the Court, which never occurred to themselves to plead:—where the necessity of defending the ignorant or prejudiced verdicts, of prejudiced or incompetent Jurors, will not exist:—where the Master Packer and his friends will have lost all power of dictation:—and where a Judge, or a King, must answer to a charge upon equal terms with the meanest individual.

In that Court, Attorney General, Time, has filed on ex-officio information against us all;—and to that bar is a solemn appeal against your decision, made by

THE BLACK DWARF.

N. B. For the information of your Lordships, I will add, that one of the Jurymen on our memorable trial does not know, even at present, nor can he be made to understand, of what he found the defendants guilty! Another, it may be known to your Lordships, was himself deeply interested in the boroughmongering system; the nature of which Mr. Justice Best can explain to your Lordships, having himself been once engaged in the boboroughmongering representation.

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